GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4601
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
GENERIC MEDICINE
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to wrong policies of the Government, chemists are earning big profits by selling `generic medicines` (basic medicines without any brand nam

(e) and consumer are being cheated;

(b) whether huge expenditure is incurred on the excise duty on branded medicines as also their publicity which gives less profit to the chemists whereas promotion of sale of generic medicines given huge profits to the chemists;

(c) if so, whether there is any Government control over maximum sale of generic medicines in the country which amounts to around 50 per cent at present; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government for providing some benefit to the consumers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (d): As per the information made available by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, the permissible margin to retailer is regulated under the provisions of the Drug (Prices Control) order, 1995 only for formulations for which the retail price is specified by an order or notified by the Government. Single ingredient formulations based on bulk drugs specified in the First Scheduled of Drug (Prices Control) order, 1995 and sold under the generic name are not scheduled formulation, hence, their prices are not fixed by the Government. However, in case the Government notifies price of a formulation as ceiling price, such price is applicable to all such formulations including those sold under generic name.